

First Church
Northwest Corner Church and Spring Streets
Belfast
Waldo County
Maine

HABS No. ME-86

HABS
ME
14-BELF
8-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

MULTIPLE
ADDENDUMS
FOLLOW

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

FIRST CHURCH

Address: Northwest corner Church and Spring Streets, Belfast, Waldo County, Maine.

Present Owner and Occupant: Congregation of First Church.

Present Use: Church

Brief Statement of Significance: This is a large frame meeting house, one of the early church buildings in Belfast.

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PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: Land originally owned by Robert Miller Church purchased nine rods frontage on Church Street and a side length of 14 rods on February 16, 1818. Property has remained in same hands ever since.

2. Date of erection: Frame erected June 13, 1818. Church dedicated November 15, 1818.

3. Architect: Samuel French--Master builder. William Frederick--Workman.

4. Builder, suppliers, etc: Builders--men from the neighboring towns accustomed to handle heavy timber.

5. Original plans, construction, etc.: Plan, somewhat modified was taken from that of the church of Rev. Dr. Tappan, in Augusta, Maine. \$6000 cost paid for by auction of pews for not less than \$90 each.

6. Notes on alterations and additions: Paul Revere and Sons bell hung 1820 (stock book of Paul Revere & Son shows an entry under date of February 17, 1820 giving the number of the bell as 219 and its destination as Belfast, Maine). Present organ installed 1848 for \$1300 minus \$400 received for old one. Clock built by Timothy Chase & Phineas P. Quimby and was placed in belfry in 1836.

1868 remodeling included replacement of original pews with present pews, removal of the pillars under balcony, and removal of high pulpit and addition of present pulpit recess.

Adjoining parish house was dedicated in 1926 at a cost of \$25000.

7. Important old views: Joseph Williamson, History of the City of Belfast in the State of Maine (Portland: Loring, Short, and Harmon, 1877), etching of exterior - page 260; ground plan showing names of original pew holders and price paid for each pew--page 261.

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PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: A good example of the large, wood frame structures used for meeting houses or religious purposes. Clock works of considerable interest.

2. Condition of fabric: Good condition.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: Rectangular main block, 80'-6" x 54'-8"; two story with attic and half basement.

2. Foundations: Ashlar granite exterior facing above grade, brick behind granite.

3. Wall construction: Heavy timber frame. Horizontal painted (white) siding 3'-10" long (average) 3" to weather. Scarf joints, fastened with wrought nails.

4. Stoops: Front wood stoop not original.

5. Chimneys: Two brick chimneys, one at rear, other adjoining entry hall. both later additions.

6. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: Three entry doors--simple Greek Revival trim--glass door knobs--central doorway glazed--glazing not original.

b. Windows and shutters: Original twelve over twelve light double hung wood sash. Diamond scratching appear in some--dated 1851. Green exterior shutters added in 1868.

7. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: Gable roof. Originally wood shingles --presently asphalt shingles.

b. Cornice, eaves: Simple wood cornice and boxed eaves on all but west elevation. No gutters or conductors.

- c. Cupola: Square clock and bell tower; highly detailed wrought iron weather vane.

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C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: First floor--entry hall followed by rectangular sanctuary. Original high pulpit removed and present chancel added 1868. Second floor--choir robing room followed by suspended balcony on three sides of sanctuary. One enclosed wood stairway--first to second floors continues to belfry.

2. Flooring: Framing of floor of hewn girders. Painted (brown) wood boards 5" to 15" fastened with wrought nails.

3. Wall and ceiling finish: Wood wainscot; painted (cream) plaster walls; painted (white) plaster coved ceiling with circular medallion molding in center.

4. Doors: Three main sanctuary entry doors not original, scattered (six-panel) remaining original doors within, original hardware removed.

5. Trim: Wood wainscot trim in entry hall and balcony railing trim appear to be original. Sanctuary trim replaced in 1868. Wood wainscot in balcony built of original pew sides; present pews replaced original ones in 1868.

6. Hardware: Strap hinges on two outside entry doors original. Paul Revere bell in belfry; clock works installed 1836; organ installed 1848.

7. Lighting: Modern warm air heating system. Building was without stoves originally.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: Northwest corner Spring and Church Streets. Church faces northeast; residential section.

2. Enclosures: Wood fence added 1920's.

3. Outbuildings: Attached parish house 1926 addition.

4. Walks: Modern asphalt sidewalks.

5. Landscaping: None except for old elm trees surrounding church.

Prepared by Russell V. Keune, Architect
National Park Service
August 1960.

Addendum to
First Church (Congregational Unitarian)
Northwest corner of Church and Spring Streets
Belfast
Waldo County
Maine

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PHOTOGRAPH

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

ADDENDUM
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PHOTOGRAPHS

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Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

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FRONT ELEVATION

LC-HABS-GS07-09R

FRONT ELEVATION

Left and right overlap: 90%

LC-HABS-GS07-10L *

FRONT ELEVATION, LOWER HALF

LC-HABS-GS07-10R

FRONT ELEVATION, LOWER HALF

Left and right overlap: 70%

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Data (Page 5)

LC-HABS-GS07-11L

SIDE ELEVATION

LC-HABS-GS07-11R *

SIDE ELEVATION

Left and right overlap: 90%

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